

DESCRIPTION

CATHETER PROTECTIVE SHIELD

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a protective device for a catheter and or device that transcends from the outside of the body to the inside of the body, and more particularly to a protective device which decreases the amount of foreign material (fluid and/or debris) presented to the catheter and its corresponding exit site, decreasing the risk of foreign material reaching the inside of the body.

Background of the Invention

[0002] With the improvement in healthcare over the last several decades, there is an increasing number of patients living with indwelling catheters traveling from the inside to the outside of their bodies. These catheters are being used for a variety of reasons such as dialysis, chemotherapy, alimentation, and fluid drainage, to name a few. The protection of the catheter and corresponding exit site is a significant concern for these patients, as moisture or other material can support the growth of harmful or infectious bacteria in and around the exit site.

[0003] As such, these patients ability to perform normal daily activities, such as swimming, bathing, and even showering is severally limited, and can even become prohibited for many of the patients. As a result, even when the patient begins to recover, the catheter becomes a constant reminder of their illness.

[0004] Accordingly, there remains a need for a device for protecting a catheter and corresponding exist site during such activities as swimming, bathing, or showering.

Brief Summary of the Invention

[0005] The protective shield of the subject invention provides a means for protecting an indwelling catheter and corresponding exit site from dirt, debris, and moisture. The protective shield comprises a pair of protective layers, an inner bag and an outer cover.

The inner bag is designed for receiving the proximal end of the catheter, having a front side and a backside, with the front side having an opening therethrough. Positioned and affixed within the front side opening is a moisture absorbent material, where the moisture absorbent material comprises a substantially centrally positioned slit therethrough. The inner bag further comprises a moisture resistant adhesive material suitable for application to the patient's skin, where the adhesive material is applied to the outer surface of the front side of the inner bag, substantially surrounding the opening without discontinuity, such that a protective seal can be formed when the inner bag is applied to the patient's skin.

[0006] The outer cover comprises a sheet of flexible, fluid-impermeable material having a peripheral edge that adheres to the patients skin, surrounding the inner bag. A moisture resistant adhesive material suitable for application to the patient's skin is applied to the peripheral edge without discontinuity, such that a protective seal can be formed when the outer cover is applied to the patient's skin. The outer cover is sized such that the inner bag is encompassed within the peripheral edge. The outer cover serves as a tarp to move water away from the inner bag.

[0007] In use, a catheter is inserted into the inner bag by inserting the catheter though the slit in the absorbent material. The catheter is drawn into the bag until the absorbent material abuts the catheter exit site and surrounding area. The inner bag is secured in position by the adhesive material in contact with the patient's skin. The outer cover is positioned over the inner bag, such that the inner bag is positioned within the peripheral edges of the outer cover. The outer cover is secured in position by the adhesive material in contact with the patient's skin. The bag can be removed by peeling the outer cover from the patient's skin. The inner bag is gently peeled from the patient's skin and the catheter removed from the bag. The protective shield is then discarded.

[0008] An advantage of this invention is that the shield decreases the risk of foreign material reaching the inside of the body.

[0009] These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more readily understood with reference to the following detailed description, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing figures.

[0010] All patents, patent applications and publications referred to or cited herein, or from which a claim for benefit of priority has been made, are incorporated by reference in their entirety to the extent they are not inconsistent with the explicit teachings of this specification, including: U.S. Patent No. 4,415,642 to *Shepherd*, U.S. Patent No. 4,549,856 to *Fentress*, and U.S. Patent No. 6,222,090 to *Weston*.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- [0011] **Figure 1** depicts a perspective view of the catheter protective shield.
- [0012] **Figure 2** depicts a front view of the catheter protective shield.
- [0013] **Figure 3** depicts a perspective view of the outer cover.
- [0014] **Figure 4** depicts a perspective view of the inner bag.
- [0015] **Figure 5** depicts a perspective view of the absorbent material.
- [0016] **Figure 6** depicts a perspective view of the inner bag with the absorbent material.
- [0017] **Figure 7** depicts a perspective view of the inner bag with an annular ring.
- [0018] **Figure 8** depicts a perspective view of the outer cover with an annular ring.
- [0019] **Figure 9** depicts a perspective view of a catheter within the protective shield.

Detailed Disclosure of the Invention

[0020] The protective shield **10** of the subject invention provides a means for protecting an indwelling catheter and corresponding exit site from dirt, debris, and moisture.

[0021] In an embodiment, as shown in Figures 1-2, the protective shield **10** of the subject invention comprises a first protective layer **12** and a second protective layer **14**. The first **12** and second protective layers **14** are made from a flexible, fluid-impermeable material capable of conforming to a patient's skin, including, but not limited to plastic, polymer, latex, or rubber. Additionally, it is desirable that the material be substantially impervious to bacterium, fungi, viruses, and other infectious agents.

[0022] As shown in Figures 4-6 and 9, the first protective layer **12** comprises an inner bag **16** for receiving the proximal end **51** of the catheter **50**, having a front side **18** and a backside **20**, where the front side **18** has an opening **22** therethrough. Positioned and affixed within the front side opening **22** is a moisture absorbent material **24**, where the

moisture absorbent material **24** comprises a substantially centrally positioned slit **26** therethrough. The moisture absorbent material **24** can comprise conventional absorbent paper, fiber, or cloth materials. Additionally, the absorbent material **24** can include conventional agents that trap, stabilize or otherwise capture the moisture into a non-mobile form. The inner bag **16** further comprises a moisture resistant adhesive material **28** suitable for application to the patient's skin, where the adhesive material **28** is applied to the outer surface of the front side **18** of the inner bag **16**, substantially surrounding the opening **22**, without discontinuity such that a protective seal can be formed when the inner bag **16** is applied to the patient's skin.

[0023] In an embodiment the inner bag **16** is rectangular, circular, elliptical, or other suitable shape.

[0024] In an embodiment the opening **22** is rectangular, circular, elliptical, or other suitable shape.

[0025] In an embodiment, the adhesive material **28** is covered by a removable release layer, such that the catheter **50** may be inserted into the inner bag **16** without adhering to the adhesive material **28**.

[0026] In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Figure 7, the inner bag **16** further comprises an annular ring **32**, where the annular ring **32** is affixed about the opening **22** of the inner bag **16**. The annular ring **32** is made of a flexible material capable of conforming to the surface of a patient's skin.

[0027] As shown in Figure 3, the second protective layer **14** comprises an outer cover **34** having a peripheral edge **36** that when adhered to the patient's skin, surrounds the inner bag **16**. A moisture resistant adhesive material **28** suitable for application to the patient's skin is applied to the peripheral edge **36** without discontinuity such that a protective seal can be formed when the outer cover **34** is applied to the patient's skin. The outer cover **34** is sized such that the inner bag **16** is encompassed within the peripheral edge **36**.

[0028] In an embodiment the second protective layer **14** is rectangular, circular, elliptical, or other suitable shape.

[0029] In an alternative embodiment, as shown in Figure 8, the outer cover **34** further comprises an annular ring **38**, where the annular ring **38** is affixed about the peripheral

edge 36 of the outer cover 34. The annular ring 38 is made of a flexible material capable of conforming to the surface of a patient's skin.

[0030] In an embodiment, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the inner bag 16 is affixed to the outer cover 34, where the top edge 21 of the protected bag 16 is affixed to the outer cover 34.

[0031] In a method of use, as shown in Figures 2 and 9, a catheter 50 is inserted into the inner bag 16 by inserting the proximal end 51 of the catheter 50 through the slit 26 in the absorbent material 24. The catheter 50 is drawn into the inner bag 16 until the absorbent material 24 abuts the catheter 50 exit site and surrounding area. The inner bag 16 is secured in position by the adhesive material 28 contacting with the patient's skin forming a protective seal. The outer cover 34 is positioned over the inner bag 16, such that the inner bag 16 is positioned with the peripheral edges 36 of the outer cover 34. The outer cover 34 is secured in position by the adhesive material 28 contacting the patient's skin, such that the outer cover 34 forms a protective seal about the inner bag 16, protecting the inner bag 16 from moisture, dirt, and debris.

[0032] Following are examples which illustrate procedures for practicing the invention. These examples should not be construed as limiting. All percentages are by weight and all solvent mixture proportions are by volume unless otherwise noted.

Example 1: Catheter Protective Shield in the form of an inner pouch and outer tarp

[0033] The protective shield consists of an inner plastic pouch whose opening is surrounded by a medical grade absorbent material, which is surrounded by a medical grade adhesive that attaches to the patient. The medical grade absorbent material covering the opening of the pouch, will trap and hold fluid penetrating the adhesive barriers affording an additional level of protection in preventing fluid from reaching the inside of the pouch. The pouch is of adequate size to accept the end of a medical device existing the body. The protective shield further comprises an attached outer plastic tarp which covers the pouch, where the edged of the tarp is surrounded with medical grade adhesive, that adheres to the patient, diverting the flow of fluid away from the opening of

the pouch. The protective shield is designed to be used by patients with medical devices exiting their bodies while they shower, bath, swim or perform activities where the device exit site from the body is at risk of coming into contact with excessive fluid and/or debris.

[0034] The adhesive is covered by a protective peel, allowing the patient to insert the medical device through the absorbent material, into the pouch, without the adhesive sticking to the patient, tarp, pouch, or medical device. The protective peel is removed once the medical device is inserted through the absorbent material and the pouch is adhered to the skin. Similarly, once the pouch is in position, the protective peel is removed from the tarp and the tarp is adhered to the skin, over the pouch.

[0035] The protective shield provides three layers of protection for the medical device and exit site. The first layer of protection is the tarp, directing the flow of water and/or debris away from the pouch. The second layer of protection is the adhesive on the pouch, which protects and seals the area surrounding the exit site. The third layer of protection is the adsorbent material. If water should be present in the opening of the pouch, the absorbent material will absorb it.

[0036] It should be understood that the example and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the spirit and purview of this application and the scope of the appended claims.